

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER BOARD
JUNE 1, 2021**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION TO ESTABLISH THE UPPER TEMESCAL VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE (GMZ), ITS BENEFICIAL USES AND TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS) AND NITRATE AS NITROGEN WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES, AND TO SPECIFY IMPLEMENTATION TASKS.

DISCUSSION

On December 4, 2020, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted [Resolution R8-2020-0038](#) amending the Basin Plan to establish the Upper Temescal Valley Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ), associated total dissolved solids and nitrate-nitrogen water quality objectives, and to specify implementation tasks for the GMZ (collectively the Upper Temescal Valley GMZ Salt and Nutrient Management Plan).

Federal law requires states to establish water quality standards (beneficial uses, water quality criteria, and an antidegradation policy) for all surface water bodies within the state's jurisdiction and to review those standards at least once every three years. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7, "Water Quality," of the California Water Code) establishes similar requirements in state law for both surface waters and groundwaters. For the Santa Ana Region, these standards are established in the Basin Plan. In California, water quality criteria are known as "water quality objectives."

The purpose of the Basin Plan amendment described in this Staff Report is to establish TDS and nitrate-nitrogen water quality objectives for the groundwater resources in the Upper Temescal Valley Watershed, specifically to:

- Amend Tables 3-1 and 4-1 of the Basin Plan to remove the Bedford, Lee Lake, and Warm Springs Valley GMZs and replace with the Upper Temescal Valley GMZ.
- Amend Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan to establish beneficial uses for the Upper Temescal Valley GMZ.
- Amend Table 4-1 to establish TDS and nitrate-nitrogen antidegradation water quality objectives for the Upper Temescal Valley GMZ.
- Incorporate the Upper Temescal Valley SNMP into Chapter 5 – Implementation.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Santa Ana Region Basin Plan to establish the Upper Temescal Valley Groundwater Management Zone, water quality objectives for TDS and nitrate-nitrogen for the Upper Temescal Valley Groundwater Management Zone and establish a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan?

FISCAL IMPACT

Santa Ana Regional Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, approval of this resolution will amend the Santa Ana Water Board's Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Santa Ana Water Board Resolution R8-2020-0038.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Santa Ana Water Board Resolution R8-2020-0038 as approved and the administrative record for this action to the Office of Administrative Law.